



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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**HAWAII'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT
6.9 PERCENT IN APRIL**

National Unemployment Rate at 8.9 percent

HONOLULU- The Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 6.9 percent, a decline of 0.2 percentage point over March's rate of 7.1 percent. In contrast, the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went from 8.5 percent in March to 8.9 percent in April. Over the last six months, Hawai'i's monthly seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has been on average 1.75 percentage points lower than the national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate. In April, there were 601,850 employed and 44,400 unemployed statewide, for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 646,200.

"While we are encouraged by the decrease in unemployment, the road to recovery is not one traveled easily or quickly," said Director Darwin L.D. Ching. "The Administration is continuing to focus on working closely with the private sector to create jobs through aggressive investments in public infrastructure improvements, increasing tourism marketing, maximizing federal partnerships and federal stimulus funds, and attracting private investments, especially in renewable energy technology."

State of Hawai'i Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data			
	<u>Apr 2009</u>	<u>Mar 2009</u>	<u>Apr 2008</u>
Labor Force	646,200	644,450	653,850
Employment	601,850	598,900	631,050
Unemployment	44,400	45,500	22,750

	APR 2009	MAR 2009	APR* 2008
STATE	6.9	7.1	3.5
HONOLULU	5.7	5.8	2.9
HAWAI'I COUNTY	9.7	10.1	4.2
KAUA'I	9.7	10.3	3.1
MAUI COUNTY	8.7	9.0	3.3
Maui Island	8.5	8.9	3.3
Moloka'i	14.1	12.4	4.7
Lana'i	8.7	8.7	5.0
U. S.	8.9	8.5	5.0

county & island rates are non-seasonally adjusted

* Apr 2008 county & island rates pending U.S.Bureau of Labor Statistics approval

Industry Payroll Employment

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs decreased by 700 to 605,200 in April. Educational and Health Services remained unchanged, while most of the other industries in the private sector experienced job losses. The sectors experiencing job reduction include: Financial Activities and Other Services (-100 each), Professional and Business Services (-400), Leisure and Hospitality (-500), Construction (-1,000), and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-1,200). Government reported job gains primarily in State Government in the Department of Education as it continues its year round schedule. Federal Government also recorded job increases due to the hiring of census workers. Over-the-year, from April 2008, the seasonally adjusted job count declined by 17,200 jobs, most prominent in the private sector.

The sectors posting notable job losses were Leisure and Hospitality (-6,500); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-6,300); and Construction (-6,000).

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)			
SELECTED SERIES:	Apr-09	Mar-09	Apr-08*
MINING, LOGGING AND AND CONSTRUCTION	32,900	33,900	38,900
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	113,700	114,900	120,000
Wholesale Trade	18,500	18,400	18,900
Retail Trade	67,400	68,000	70,500
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES **	28,800	28,900	29,800
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing **	12,300	12,400	13,000
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES **	73,400	73,800	76,200
Professional, Scientific, Tech Svcs **	25,000	25,000	25,100
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	74,500	74,500	73,700
Educational Services	14,500	14,700	14,600
Health Care & Social Assistance	60,000	59,800	59,100
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	102,100	102,600	108,600
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	11,000	11,000	11,700
Accommodation & Food Services	91,100	91,600	96,900
OTHER SERVICES	27,000	27,100	27,400
GOVERNMENT	129,900	126,000	121,300
Federal Government	33,600	32,800	31,900
State Government	77,500	74,300	71,000
Local Government	18,800	18,900	18,400
TOTAL: STATEWIDE	605,200	605,900	622,400

* Benchmarked Data

** New Series

❖ **Educational and Health Services (No Change)**

This major industry remained virtually unchanged. The increase in Health Care and Social Assistance was equally offset by the decrease in Educational Services. Educational Services trended down in colleges, universities and professional schools. Health Care and Social Assistance trended up mainly in social assistance in individual and family services.

❖ **Financial Activities (-100)**

This new group fell minimally after a slight increase a month earlier. Real Estate and Rental and Leasing made up the entire decrease in real estate. Finance and Insurance remained stable, while edging down minimally in depository credit intermediation.

❖ **Other Services (-100)**

This miscellaneous sector dropped modestly for the second consecutive month. Most of the drop was in personal and laundry services.

❖ **Professional and Business Services (-400)**

Professional and Business Services trended downward for the fourth consecutive month. Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services accounted for majority of the job loss in employment services. Management of Companies and Enterprises also reported minimal decrease in corporate, subsidiary and regional managing offices. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services remained relatively stable. The increase in management, scientific, and technical consulting services countered the decrease in marketing research and public opinion polling.

❖ **Leisure and Hospitality (-500)**

This major industrial group continued its descent downward experiencing a 500 job loss from March. Arts, Entertainment and Recreation recorded no change. The rise in performing arts companies slightly edged over the fall in fitness and recreational sport centers. Accommodation and Food Services composed the entire job loss in this industry, slipping downward for the fourth consecutive month. Accommodation trimmed staff as hotel continues to report lower occupancy rates. Food Services also reduced its employees in both full-service restaurants and limited-service eating places.

❖ **Construction (-1,000)**

Construction contracted for the fifth month in a row. The majority of the reduction was reported in special trade construction in building equipment operators and building finishing contractors. There were also minimal job losses in heavy and civil engineering construction in utility system construction. Over-the-year from April 2008, this sector declined by 6,000

jobs. The loss of jobs in this industry has been affected by the weakened economy and the slowdown of new construction projects.

❖ **Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-1,200)**

This major industrial sector declined by the largest margin from March after posting a moderate gain a month earlier. Wholesale Trade rose slightly for the second straight month in petroleum and petroleum products merchant wholesalers. Both Retail Trade and Transportation and Warehousing constituted the entire contraction in this industry. Retail Trade posted job losses in general merchandise stores; and clothing and clothing accessories stores but also in various sectors including electronic and appliance stores, building material and supplies dealers, and gasoline stations. Meanwhile, Transportation reported job decreases partly due to a water transportation operator abruptly terminating operations releasing all of its employees. Other transportation series contributing to the job drop include taxi and limousine service, support activities for transportation, and air transportation.

❖ **Government (+3,900)**

Government expanded by the largest jobs in April. Local Government reported a nominal 100 job loss. Federal Government gained by 800 jobs mainly due to the hiring of census workers. State Government registered the bulk of the increase predominantly in the Department of Education as it continues its year round calendar session.

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (Statewide)

